



Idaho State Fire Plan Working Group

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SUMMARY MINUTES IDAHO STATE FIRE PLAN WORKING GROUP SEPTEMBER 28-29, 2004

Peggy Polichio
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Chair

Member Agencies:

*Idaho
Department
of Lands*

*Idaho National
Forests*

*Idaho
Association
of Counties*

*Idaho
Fire Chiefs
Association*

*Bureau
of Indian
Affairs*

*Federal
Emergency
Management
Agency*

*State Fire
Marshal*

*Idaho Bureau of
Homeland Security*

*Idaho
Department
of Commerce*

*US Fish
and Wildlife
Service*

*Idaho
Bureau of
Land Management*

National Park Service

Governor's Office

*Resource
Conservation
and Development
Association
Coordinators*

The quarterly meeting of the Idaho State Fire Plan Working Group was held on Tuesday, September 28, 2004, in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, with a field trip to Hazardous Fuels Treatment (HFT) projects taking place from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. the following day, September 29.

Suzanne Endsley, USFS, facilitated the meeting.

The following members were present:

- Peggy Polichio, Chair – Idaho Department of Lands/US Forest Service
- Brian Shiplett – Idaho Department of Lands
- Lynn Borders – Idaho Fire Chiefs Association
- Russ Manwaring – Resource Conservation and Development Council
- Jerry Miller – Idaho Department of Commerce and Labor
- Dennis Seidman – US Fish and Wildlife Service
- Leonard Wehking – Bureau of Land Management
- Stephen Weiser – Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security

The following members were absent:

- Bob Appling – National Park Service
- Robert Cope – Lemhi County, Representing Idaho Association of Counties
- Gil Eggleston – Federal Emergency Management Agency
- Ben Estes – Idaho Fire Chiefs Association
- Lance Giles – Office of the Governor
- Ken Kiser – US Forest Service
- Cory Winnie – Bureau of Indian Affairs
- Mark Larson – State Fire Marshal

Also in attendance:

- Peggy Griswold – Idaho Department of Lands
- Kurt Naccarato – Idaho Department of Lands
- Jon Skinner – Bureau of Land Management
- Brian Orr – Bonner County, Representing Idaho Association of Counties
- Tim Droegmiller – Nez Perce Tribal Forestry
- Donna Larenz – Nez Perce Tribal Forestry
- Kathy Dingman – Panhandle Lakes Resource Conservation & Development Council
- Brad Gilbert – US Forest Service
- Lonnie Newton – US Forest Service

- Peggy Polichio gave overview of day's agenda followed by introduction of members present with brief summary from each.
 - **Russ Manwaring** – Some RC&Ds moving into all-hazard mitigation. Kathy Dingman will sit in Russ' place as West Central Highlands RC&D has an application in the mix. Idaho's RC&Ds have been recognized nationally for assisting counties with fire mitigation plans.
 - **Lynn Borders** – Primary target for funding is to subsidize training across the state. Communications have become an issue of concern for Idaho.
 - **Stephen Weiser** – Idaho Bureau of Disaster Services has become Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security. Some county plans have been reviewed and approved as complying with Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) standards. Idaho Department of Lands (IDL) is applying for a FEMA prevention grant this year.
 - **Brian Orr** – Bonner County Commissioner sitting in for Robert Cope as representative for the Idaho Association of Counties (IAC) as Lemhi County has an application in the mix. Bonner County's new dispatch center is up and running.
 - **Peggy Polichio** – Our June 18 memo has helped reduce confusion at the local level. Most counties are trying to kill three birds with one stone, and revising county plans to accomplish this:
 - County plan to be responsive to the Idaho Statewide Implementation Strategy for the National Fire Plan
 - FEMA wildland fire to the all-hazards plan (required at the county level)
 - Healthy Forest Restoration Act (HFRA) – Community Wildfire Protection Plan
 Peg will attend the Western Governors' Forest Health Advisory Committee meeting in Phoenix November 9-10. The Advisory Group is focused on improving collaboration and monitoring for National Fire Plan/HFRA. Peg will inform Working Group of results or needed changes after the November meeting.
 - **Brian Shiplett** – Introduction of Peggy Griswold as the Idaho Department of Lands Federal Grants Fiscal Advisor and Kurt Naccarato as the Department's HFT Program Manager. With 12 million dollars in the field, it is time to gather success stories and report them to the Western States Fire Managers (WSFM) and the Washington office of the Forest Service. The Idaho State Fire Plan Working Group (ISFPWG) is doing well, and this reflects positively on the State of Idaho. WSFM funding decision will probably not be known until April or so. Idaho will be most successful if we send in a portion of our very best applications - maximum of ten. Some applications may qualify for funding by other sources.
 - **Leonard Wehking** – Bureau of Land Management (BLM) wants to fund education initiatives and *Keep Idaho Green*. BLM will be passing money through IDL to fund work on private lands adjacent to BLM lands. Peggy P. notes here that the process will be similar to FS R1/R4 "Adjacent to FS" (old "Stevens"), and will run in the spring cycle with Forest Service Adjacent program. *Keep Idaho Green* displays are available from BLM. Contact Vickie Ellickson at IDL to obtain.

Prioritization of 2005 Western States Fire Managers WUI Grant Applications –

IDL received 20 applications (**totaling \$3,753,420**) from counties and communities across the state in response to the outreach for the 2005 cycle of the Western States Fire Managers Wildland Urban Interface Grant Program.

Changes to the 2005 program included:

- No project proposal over \$500,000.
- No state to receive more than 15% of the total dollars available.
- New projects take precedence over continuance of previously funded projects.

Initial Criteria were established by WSFM and enhanced by the Idaho State Fire Plan Working Group:

- **Is project doable?** Local capacity to manage on the ground and fiscally
- **Is there a county wildland fire mitigation plan in place?**
- **Is the plan HFRA compliant?** Meets the minimum requirements of a Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP)?
- **Is the applicant a county entity?**
- **Is project demonstrating collaboration?**
- **Is project in moderate- to high-risk area?** Draft Idaho *Communities at Risk* analysis
- **Will project reduce threat of catastrophic scale fire?**
- **Is project measurable?** Acres treated or structures protected
- **Are costs reasonable?**

Discussion: Criteria Development

Because all 20 grant applications submitted were equally compliant with initial criteria, additional ranking criteria were developed to refine the distinctions between projects, keeping in mind the WSFM's focus on HFT projects that get work done on the ground.

Discussion: Geographic Spread of funds throughout the State

Discussion ensued on the existing geographic spread of funding currently at work in Idaho, and the prospect of funding areas where no projects exists. At this time, the funding spread throughout the State looks like this:

North Idaho – Heavy	South Central Idaho - Moderate
North Central Idaho – Minimal	Eastern Idaho – Minimal
Southwest Idaho – Minimal	Mid-Eastern (Lemhi/Custer) - None

It was determined that new projects in portions of the State without much funding at this time would be given special consideration in the ranking process.

The Project Maintenance issue was discussed. Weight would be given to projects with a clear maintenance plan. How to monitor this maintenance is a concern.

Criteria Developed:

Criteria	Prioritization Points Awarded
Education vs. Hazardous Fuels Treatment	HFT=5 MIX=3 ED=1
Is This Project Identified In County Fire Mit Plan?	YES=5 NO=0
Risk Factor Derived from Idaho Communities at Risk Map (Draft)	HIGH=5 MOD/HI=4 MOD=3 LOW/MOD=2 LOW=1
Other Appropriate Grant Source/Funding Available?	YES= -5 NO=0
What Type Of Organization/Entity Is Applicant?	COUNTY W/ HFRA COMPLIANT PLAN=5 COUNTY W/ PLAN=4 COMMUNITY W/ PLAN=3 COMMUNITY W/O PLAN=2 OTHER NOT-FOR-PROFIT=1
Effective Use of Previous Funds?	YES= 0 SOMEWHAT= -3 NO=-5

Projects Forwarded:

The following ten projects **(totaling \$2,214,878)** were forwarded to the Western States Fire Managers:

Adams County

Kootenai County LEPC (HFT)

West Central Highlands RC&D

Lemhi County

South Custer FD

Blaine County

Three Rivers RC&D

Boundary County

Latah County

Wood River RC&D

To view projects submitted visit: http://www.fs.fed.us/r4/sfa_grants/idaho.html

Projects Not Recommended:

The remaining applications (below) were not recommended at this time for this grant program:

Fremont County

Greater Swan Valley FPD #2

Kootenai County (Education)

Sawtooth Valley RFD

Shoshone County (Prichard/Murray)

Girl Scouts of Silver Sage Council

Idaho Department of Fish and Game

Lewiston FD

Shoshone County (Pinehurst)

Stanley Basin HOA (Ironcreek HOA)

Discussion of tasks to be completed by Working Group:

1. Develop a handbook for communities for their use immediately following losses from wildfire. Utilize the Montana Interagency Coordination Guide as a template.

Jerry Miller/ Peg Polichio/Stephen Weiser/Kurt Naccarato

2. Develop a "cross-walk" checklist for our Counties so that they can formally review their County plans for compliance with:

- Idaho Statewide Implementation Strategy for the National Fire Plan
- FEMA wildland fire chapter of the all-hazards plan
- Healthy Forests Restoration Act (HFRA) - Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) **Brian Shiplett/Stephen Weiser/Peg Polichio**

Please Note – All agencies are requested to forward their 2004 accomplishment statistics for inclusion in the 2004 Annual Report. A sample format for the data portion will be attached to the electronic version of this message. Don't forget about agency updates, if you would like to have yours included in the Report. If you would like to review last year's Report, visit http://www2.state.id.us/lands/nat_fire_plan/annual_report/2003.pdf . Please have your information compiled and sent to Suzanne Cronin at: scronin@idl.state.id.us no later than December 10, 2004.

The next meeting of the Idaho State Fire Plan Working Group will be held on the 26th and 27th of January at the Idaho Commerce and Labor office in Meridian Idaho. We have the room on both days from 8AM-5PM.

205 E. Watertower Lane
Meridian, ID 83642-6282

The office is approximately 15 minutes from the Boise Airport just off the I-84 Meridian Road exit. There is a Motel 6, Best Western, the Sandman Inn, a Holiday Inn Express and I think a Hampton are all close by.

**Presentation by Brad Gilbert and Lonnie Newton
Idaho Panhandle National Forests (IPNF),
Region 1 USDA Forest Service**

DRAFT Locally Defined Wildland Urban Interface

- Lonnie Newton, IPNF Fuels Planner, shared a "Draft" map which displays the locally defined Wildland Urban Interface for the five northern counties. Several of the County Wildland Fire Interagency Groups developed a written definition. These definitions were then interpreted for the special display. The map is DRAFT until all counties confirm that the interpretation was correct. The map gives the Forest Service a good idea where HFRA authorities may be useful for hazardous fuels reduction projects adjacent to communities in northern Idaho.
- Brad Gilbert, IPNF Operations Team Leader, and Lonnie Newton described collaborative efforts by the Idaho Panhandle National Forests within the five northern Idaho Counties, HFRA project status, and their 5-year Hazardous Fuels Strategy. The purpose of this presentation was to inform the Idaho State Fire Plan Working Group and to possibly move toward a collaborative selection of projects similar to the process developed between R4 Forest Service and the Working Group.

**Idaho State Fire Plan Working Group
Briefing on Idaho Panhandle National Forests Fuels Project
September 28, 2004**

Background:

- History of changing condition classes since the mid 90' s
- Cooperative work with Kootenai County and Idaho Department of Lands.
- Fire Regime, Condition Class Maps

Collaboration with County Working Groups:

- Rangers have been charged with developing these relationships
- District fire staffs have also been heavily involved.

Community Wildfire Protection Plans:

- Boundary -completed
- Bonner -completed
- Kootenai -completed
- Shoshone -completed
- Benewah -completed

Coordinated Fuels Treatments on Private Land:

- Hope to Clark Fork -ID NFP Grant (2001)
- Stevens Funds -2004
 - Bonner Co. -Bonfire Project -\$265,000
 - Shoshone Co. -Sunnyslope WUI -\$99,000
 - Shoshone Co. -Silverton WUI -\$131,000
- Kootenai -Fire Smart
- Shoshone -Fuel Reduction
- Bonner -Bonfire
- Boundary County -Fire Safe

IPNF Projects: Collaborative, Integrated, and Consistent with State Working Group Criteria.**Pre-HFRA:**

- Lakeface Lamb
- Deerfoot
- Twomile
- Rising Cougar
-

HFRA:

- Placer Cr.
- Myrtle Cr.
- Granite-Reeder
- Cottonwood-Quartz
- Red Beauty
- Prichard Cr.